

Utah State Crime Lab – Evidence Collection / Corroboration

2014 Utah Children's Justice Symposium

May 13, 2014

To Collect or Not to Collect? – That IS the Question!

The "Value" of Evidence

The case does not need to be proven by ONE piece of evidence alone!

We don't always know the evidentiary *value* until the pieces of the puzzle are assembled

If it isn't *collected*, it can't be *tested*!

What is DNA?

STR vs Y-STR Analysis

Advantage of Y-STRs

The ability to get a male profile when the number of female cells in a sample is far greater than the number male cells.

Limitation of Y-STRs

STR analysis is the "traditional" DNA analysis used because the manner in which they are inherited results in a higher degree of variation between individuals, thus having stronger statistical power than Y-STRs which are inherited as a unit along the single Y chromosome.

Collection Considerations

What to Collect

What type of evidence can be tested?

The juvenile victim - Where is evidence likely to be found in these cases?

Evidence of *Who?* vs *What?*

Exclusions may be as important as inclusions

When to Collect (Time of Collection)

What if we could extend the window of time for collecting evidence?

Y-STR capabilities

Case Examples & Discussion